**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

**Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58**

**WEBSITE THAT SUPPORT ONLINE COMMUNITIES**

**WIKIS**

1. **Describe the nature of a wiki.**

A wiki is a collaborative website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content. The website consists of a number of interlinked pages.

1. **What are strengths of wikis?**

* More than one person can work on a wiki at the same time.
* Great source of free information
* Simple to revert and delete information posted
* Easy to learn and use

1. **Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Public Wiki** | **Private Wiki** |
| **Features** | **Anyone in the world can view.**  **Anyone can become a member.**  **Anyone can edit, contribute or delete.**  **Great for global contributions but you must rely on soft security to maintain order.**  **E.g. Wikipedia.** | **Only members can view.**  **Only those invited by the organiser can join and become a member.**  **Only members can edit, contribute or delete.**  **Closed discussions**  **Best used for a class or school wiki.**  **E.g. A school wiki.** |

1. **What is meant by soft security?**

Soft security relies on the peoples values to do the right thing on the wiki. It works socially to convince people to be sensible without having set rules or procedures.

**BLOGS**

1. **What is a blog?**

A blog is short for Web log, it is an online diary edited and maintained by a single person. The posts are displayed in reverse chronological order.

1. **Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.**

A wiki is edited collaboratively and has more of an informative purpose. A Blog is a personal website edited solely by one person and is its purpose is more for entertainment.

**FORUMS**

1. **Describe the nature of a forum.**

A forum is an online message board or discussion website that supports online communities that wish to exchange information. Users are able to visit the forum and add comments that are called posts.

1. **What is a thread?**

A thread is a series of related posts.

**PURPOSE OF AN ONLINE COMMUNITY:**

* 1. **To broadcast information and events using various tools**
  2. **List tools for broadcasting information.**
* A simple website
* Blog
* An email mailing list
* A twitter account
  1. **What is a RSS feed?**

An RSS (real simple syndication) keeps you informed of changes on an online community website by you subscribing to a blog, Facebook thread or forum. You receive an email when the page/website has been updated.

* 1. **To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools**
  2. **What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?**

For a collaborative problem to be solved there must be a clear, common purpose, everyone must work well as a team and there should be some type of documented process to follow.

* 1. **Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.**

Synchronous collaboration means that it is in real time, for example MSN, Skype or video conferencing. Asynchronous means that there is no timing requirement for the exchange of data each person can respond in their own space and time, for example, email and forums.

* 1. **To store and develop organisational knowledge**
  2. **List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange.**
* Wikis
* Microsoft SharePoint
* Groupware
* Ultranet

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ONLINE COMMUNITIES, P 57**

**In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:**

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups
2. Online communities appealing to special needs
3. Online communities appealing to cultural needs
4. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities
5. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

**NON-TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPING A WEBSITE FOR A COMMUNITY, P 58**

**ENSURING PRIVACY IN AN ONLINE COMMUNITY**

1. **Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.**

* Request for memberships verified (Memberships take 24hrs to confirm so that a choice can be made)
* Complex passwords.
* Administrators should be observant to ensure protocols are not broken.

1. **How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?**

The Information Privacy Act protects privacy because data collected cannot be used for any other purpose without consent.

**COPYRIGHT IN ONLINE COMMUNITIES**

1. **What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?**

* Only upload your own text and image or text or images free of copyright.

**HUMAN RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS**

1. **What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity?**

* No encouraging of hate crimes or religious vilification of others
* No discrimination at any time
* No encouraging of victimisation
* No assisting or authorising of others to engage in these activities

**SOCIAL ONLINE PROTOCOLS**

1. **What is meant by online protocols?**

Many online communities have their own set of protocols that govern how members must act and how disagreements are resolved.